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securing elements for securing said ring binder to the base member, the securing elements each having a free end located at an end of the securing fastener, the free ends of the securing elements lying substantially in the same plane, and at least 75% of said elements extending away from a longitudinal axis of the engagement portion.

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**Remarks**

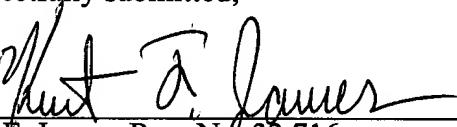
Claims 18 and 19 are amended herein, and new claims 28 and 29 are added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-29 will be pending. A check in payment of the fee for excess claims is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in payment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Claims 18 and 19 have each been amended relative to the reissue application, at line 7 of each claim, by the replacement of the term "means" with the term "fastener". As amended, the term "securing fastener" is used consistently throughout the claims.

New claims 28 and 29 include elements similar to those of claims 20 and 21. Specifically, claim 28 recites that securing elements each have substantially the same length, and claim 29 recites that the free ends of the securing elements lie substantially in the same plane.

Support for the amendment to claims 18 and 19 is found in the specification and drawings which disclose the function of rivet 30 as a fastener for securing a ring binder to a base member. Support for new independent claim 29 is found in the drawings of the original patent, particularly Figs. 3B and 4, which show that the securing elements each have substantially the same length. Support for new independent claim 29 is found in the drawings of the original patent, particularly Figs. 3B and 4, which show that the securing elements each have a free end located at an end of the securing fastener and that the free ends lie substantially in the same plane.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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